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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/826,189	04/16/2004	Patrick Scholten	P10670.01	9794
27581	7590	02/09/2005	EXAMINER	
MEDTRONIC, INC. 710 MEDTRONIC PARKWAY NE MS-LC340 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55432-5604			ALTER, ALYSSA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3762	

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/826,189

Applicant(s)

SCHOLTEN ET AL.

Examiner

Alyssa M Alter

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 April 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/16/04.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

Claims 1-54 of this application conflict with claims 1-48 of Application No. 10/424,538 (US Patent Publication 20040215276 A1). 37 CFR 1.78(b) provides that when two or more applications filed by the same applicant contain conflicting claims, elimination of such claims from all but one application may be required in the absence of good and sufficient reason for their retention during pendency in more than one application. Applicant is required to either cancel the conflicting claims from all but one application or maintain a clear line of demarcation between the applications. See MPEP § 822

A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

1. Claims 1-54 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-48 of copending Application No. 10/424,538 (US Patent Publication 20040215276 A1). This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-11, 14-21, 24-39, 42-49 and 53-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wohlgemuth (US 6,029,087). Wohlgemuth discloses an implantable cardiac pacing system having an enhanced capability of classifying intracardiac signals with digital signal processing (DSP) and software algorithms.

As to claims 1-3, 25-31 and 53, figure 1 is a functional block diagram of an implantable pacemaker that shows the primary components, including the controller 34, DSP chip 36, microprocessor 30 and electrodes 50-52 and 59-60 are used for sensed signal processing. The controller 34, which the examiner considers the pulse generator, “triggers output pulses to be generated and delivered from output stage 35”(col. 4, lines 30-31). The DSP chip 36, as seen in figure 2A, comprises an amplifier 62 and A/D converter for generating a digital signal. “Electrodes 50 and 51 which are employed both for delivery of pacing pulses and for sensing of cardiac signals”(col. 4, lines 35-36) are “located on the distal tip end of an endocardial lead 50L”(col. 4, lines 37-38).

The cardiac signals sensed, or “sense signals, are inputted to DSP block 36, which comprises a number of signal processing channels corresponding to signals of interest. For example, in a dual chamber pacemaker which incorporates P wave processing either for rate control, capture detection or any other reason, there are three

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channels for respective signal processing of the P, R and T waves. The data resulting from the digital signal processing is transmitted via bus 60 through controller 34 and bus 46 to microprocessor 30, for the signal classification operations, as well as any other necessary calculations"(col. 4, lines 57-67). Also, "the classification algorithms for processing the parameters generated by each DSP channel can be re-programmed in a known manner"(col. 5, lines 12-15). Therefore, since the microprocessor 30 processes the P wave for capture detection, it inherently detects a morphological characteristic and compares to a morphological criteria in order to determine if the pacing has been captured.

As to claims 4-11, 14-21, 24, 32-39 and 42-49, the morphological characteristics or parameters, min voltage, max voltage, min slope, max slope, time of min voltage, time of max voltage, time of min slope and time of max slope, can be derived from the DSP components in figure 2B and seen in figures 3A and 3B. "Referring now to FIG. 3A, the upper curve represents the filtered signal (SIG), and the lower signal represents a corresponding slope (SL) signal corresponding to an event which is to be sensed and classified. For each signal, plus and minus threshold values are indicated, i.e., SIG TH+, SIG TH-, SL TH+, and SL TH-"(col. 5, lines 62-67). Since the signal (SIG and SL) is compared to a threshold, positive and negative, and in excess of the threshold, the examiner considered exceeding the threshold to be the range to which the signal is compared.

"When the analysis window is active, the SIG and SL values are operated on to obtain the signal parameters that are illustrated in FIG. 3B. Referring first to the filtered

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signal as illustrated in FIG. 3B, both maximum and minimum values of SIG during the analysis window are obtained; the positive value is indicated as SIGmax and the negative as SIGmin. The time from sense to SIGmax is indicated as SIG Dmax; and the time from sense to SIGmin is indicated as SIG Dmin. Likewise, referring to the SL curve, values of SLmax and SLmin are determined, and the time from sense to each is found, namely SL Dmax and SL Dmin. Additionally, the time from first crossing of a threshold to the last crossing of a threshold is determined as labelled W; in this example W is from the first SIG crossing of the positive threshold to the last SIG crossing of the SIG positive threshold”(col. 6, lines 13-28).

As to claim 54, “the parameters from each channel are transferred on a data bus to a microprocessor, which is software controlled to classify each sensed signal as a function of one or more of the DSP-generated parameters. The software includes a classification algorithm for each DSP channel, and each algorithm is programmable so that classification for the patient can be optimized for each signal type”(col. 2, lines 42-49).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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1. Claims 12-13, 22-23, 40-41 and 50-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wohlgemuth (US 6,029,087) in view of van Krieken (US 5,674,254). Wohlgemuth discloses the claimed invention except for the morphology characteristic of width of the signal. van Krieken teaches that it is known to analyze morphology in a conventional manner, which includes measuring signal width, as set forth in column 7, lines 46-52. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the morphological characteristics and criteria as taught by Wohlgemuth to include measuring width as taught by van Krieken, in order to thoroughly evaluate the morphology of the signal.

As to claim 13 and 41, the modified Wohlgemuth therefore teaches the comparison of the width of the signal to a threshold and range exceeding the threshold.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

1. Does not describe reference number 120 in figure 5.
2. Describes reference number 121 in figure 5, when there is no reference number.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 121 in figure 5.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 120 in figure 5.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. Wang (US 5,683,431) discloses verification of capture by sensing evoked response across cardioversion electrodes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alyssa M Alter whose telephone number is (571) 272-4939. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on (571) 272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alyssa M Alter
Examiner
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JEFFREY R. JASTRZAB
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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